

fruits are dull, dark brown, abruptly contracted into a short beak, 2.5–3 mm. long. The other is the collection of *A. J. Eames* from Framingham, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, which is flowering material with the styles 3 mm. long.

S. CHLOROCARPUM Rydb. var. *TYPICUM*. At North Spencer, Tioga Co., New York, occur plants which, although they possess each of the other characters of this species, have been considered atypical because all of the fruiting heads were axillary. If we consider the fruits, rather than the relative position of the heads to the bracts, to represent the primary character for determining *chlorocarpum*, then these forms would be definitely placed here. It seems desirable to alter our definition of this species to include plants both with axillary and supra-axillary heads.

S. CHLOROCARPUM Rydb. var. *ACAULE* (Beeby) Fernald. This variety strongly suggests a response to an altered ecological condition and seems doubtfully worthy of nomenclatorial distinction. Observations made by Dr. W. C. Muenscher and the writer during several seasons seem to indicate that *chlorocarpum*, var. *typicum* occurs in shallow water along the shores of ponds and streams, whereas the var. *acaule* is found more often up on the shores, in bogs removed from the water, or in places from which the water has receded during certain seasons. The relative position of the crowded fruiting heads towards the base of the plant seems to be the sole criterion for determining this variety. The difference in the size of the fruiting heads of *acaule* as compared with the typical variety seems insufficient to warrant use as a key character.

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A STATION FOR HYMENOPHYSA PUBESCENS IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

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LATE in April, 1936, I first noticed, from the window of a passing train, a colony of cruciferous plants growing on a high embankment along the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad a few blocks northwest of the 30th Street Station in Philadelphia. The broad leaves and flat-topped inflorescences strongly suggested *Lepidium Draba*, and as this is not a common introduction in the Philadelphia area the locality was

visited a few weeks later for the purpose of collecting material. Although upon this date, May 18, the plant was only in bud, its corymbose inflorescences and oblong, clasping leaves still contributed to its superficial resemblance to *Lepidium Draba*.

On May 27 the plant was in full bloom, its corymbs of whitish flowers forming an attractive sight as seen from the car-window. Specimens collected on this date revealed a few immature silicles, and as these were ovoid rather than flattened it was apparent that the species must belong to some genus other than *Lepidium*. By June 8 its fruits were well developed and the still corymbose heads were crowded with upright, purplish, ovoid to globose, mucronate pods. It was now evident that the plant could be referred to no species included in our current manuals for eastern North America. Comparison with herbarium material, aided by reference to standard Old World treatments, established its identity as *Hymenophysa pubescens* C. A. Mey., a species said to be native to Siberia.

A casual survey of recent literature disclosed the fact that the plant had already twice been recorded from North America. In 1925 Dr. P. C. Standley published a note on its occurrence in Idaho,¹ and the following year Dr. B. A. Walpole called attention to the fact that he had previously (1919) collected and distributed specimens of *Hymenophysa* from Ypsilanti, Michigan.²

In an effort to ascertain whether the species had been detected in any of the eastern states, I addressed inquiries to the Field Museum, the Gray Herbarium, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the New York Botanical Garden and the U. S. National Museum. To the authorities of these institutions I am greatly indebted for their kindness in having examined the material in their respective collections and supplying me with all the available records. From the evidence thus accumulated it appears that *Hymenophysa pubescens* has become well established in several of the far western states, e. g., California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado, but that it has not before been collected east of Ypsilanti (Washtenaw County), Michigan. The Philadelphia locality, then, is apparently the first to be noted for any of the eastern states.

The plant occupies the crest of a grassy embankment, at 31st and Baring Streets, overlooking the tracks. Although twice cut back and

¹ Science II, 62: 509 (1925).

² Science II, 63: 335 (1926).

once burnt over by railroad workers, it continues to put up new shoots from its perennial bases. It seems reasonable to suppose that the plant will persist and that in the future it will be reported from additional stations in this area as well as elsewhere on the Atlantic seaboard.

Specimens of five separate collections (Fogg Nos. 10347, 10440, 10527, 11046, 11145) have been deposited in the herbarium of the University of Pennsylvania and duplicates of one or more of these numbers are being distributed to the Philadelphia Botanical Club, the Gray Herbarium, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the U. S. National Museum.

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